**Jeaic ar scoil – *jack at school***

glan duit – *clean the sand of the beach off yourself*

is oscail an – *and open the door to the autumn*

*award clothes upon yourself*

*so the prickly shirt will*

*peck your young little neck*

*and take from the shoebox*

*their leather smell as sauce*

*you are six years old*

*i recognised with pride your bravery*

*and you going for the bus stop*

*“don’t kiss me, mam” you said*

*i turned away from my young child*

*who grew up overnight*

*beneath the warm mist of morning*

*and i walked in home*

*so i could peak through the curtain*

*so that he would leave safely*

*so that learning would swallow him*

*with a limitless thirst of curiosity*

*he is six years old*

*move beneath the music*

*and beneath the love of your people*

*little man, older than your years*

*that spent time here before*

*with your brown eyes*

*open with surprise*

*at being alive in this life*

*isn’t it great to be six years old*

**key words**

téama an dáin – *theme of the poem*

imeacht na hóige – *the brevity of youth*

sa dán seo – *in this poem*

buailimid le – *we meet with*

buachaill sé bliana daois – *a six year old boy*

an gasúr – *the child*

ag dul ar scoil – *going to school*

don chéad uair – *for the first time*

léiríonn an file – *the poet shows*

an t-athrú saoil – *the change of life*

meafar – *metaphor*

seasann “gaineamh na trá” do – *the “sand of the beach” represents*

roimh dul ar scoil – *before going to school*

tagairt – *reference*

shaol na scoile – *school life*

taispeánann NíChinnéide – *níChinnéide (kennedy) shows*

chomh tapaidh a tharlaíonn – *how fast it happens*

dar léi – *according to her*

d’fhás Jeaic aníos – *jack grew up*

that oíche – *overnight*

úsáideann NíChinnéide – *NíChinnéide uses*

codarsnacht – *contrast*

a léiriú dúinn – *to show us*

bíonn sé deacair – *it is difficult*

leannaí – *children*

sa chéad iomhá – *in the first image*

léiríonn an file – *the poet shows*

soineantacht na hóige – *innocence of youth*

dhéanann sí cur síos ar – *she descrbes*

bog *– soft*

saonta *– naive*

nuair a thosaíonn siad ar scoil – *when they start at school*

mar sheasann sé do – *because it stands for*

na míbhuntáistí – *the disadvantages*

ag baint le – *concerning*

bulaíocht – *bullying*

a bheith scartha ó do thuismitheoirí – *to be separated from your parents*

ina theannta sin – *as well as that*

faighimid – *we get*

íomhá – *image*

ceanndhána – *stubborn*

ag tosú amach – *starting out*

an saol mór – *the adult life*

neamhspleách – *independant*

teastaíonn neamhspleáchas uaidh – *he wants independance*

éirimiúil – *sensible*

freisin – *as well*

grá máthar – *mother’s love*

an mothúchán is láidre – *the strongest emotion*

táimid ábalta – *we are able to*

go soiléir – *clearly*

nochtann an file – *the poet reveals*

friotal grámhar – *loving language*

anuas air sin – *as well as that*

bródúil – *proud*

ach ar an lámh eile de – *on the other hand*

buartha – *worried*

mac óg – *young son*

cé go bhfuil sé – *even though*

i súile a mháthar – *in the eyes of his mother*